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Application for a Patent

We, OLIVER J. NILSEN (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED,

APPLICATION ACCEPTED AND AMENDMENTS

ALLOWED 1-3-90

of 200 Berkeley Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia,

hereby apply for the grant of a Patent

for an invention entitled "ELECTRICITY METER"

which is described in the accompanying ~~complete~~ ^{provisional} specification.

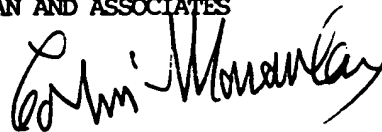
Our address for service is: CALLINAN AND ASSOCIATES, Patent Attorneys, of
~~48-50 Bridge Road, Richmond, in the State of Victoria, Australia.~~

Dated this 6th day of February, 19 86.

OLIVER J. NILSEN (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED

By its Patent Attorneys:

CALLINAN AND ASSOCIATES



To The Commissioner of Patents.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

The Patents Act 1952

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT

of the ~~(Convention)~~ Application made by: OLIVER J. NILSEN (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED

(hereinafter termed "the applicant ") for a patent (of addition) for an invention entitled
"ELECTRICITY METER"

I/~~We~~ Allan R. Trimble
of 200 Berkeley Street, Carlton, 3053, Victoria, Australia
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

~~I am / We are the applicant~~, ~~or~~
I am / ~~We are~~ authorised by the applicant to make this declaration on its/~~their~~ behalf.

~~The basic application as defined by sections 141 and 142 of the Act was/were made~~
in on
in on
in on
by

The basic application referred to in this paragraph is/are the first application made in a Convention country
~~in respect of the invention the subject of the application.~~

~~I / We am / are~~
PHILLIP JOHN PERRY, JOHN ARTHUR DOUGLAS MELDRUM, MICHAEL JOHN BAUER,
CLIVE STUART WHITE and JORDAN METLIKOVEC, of 162 Dougharty Road,
Heidelberg West, 3081, Victoria, Australia

~~or~~

is/are the actual inventors of the invention and the facts upon which the applicant is/~~are~~ entitled to make
the application are as follows: The applicant is the assignee of the invention from the said
actual inventors.

Declared at Carlton this 2nd day of November 1988

Signed: ALLAN R. TRIMBLE

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-68113/87
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ELECTRICITY METER

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(57) Claim

1. An electrical energy analyser including at least one current sensing means, a voltage sensing means, at least one analog to digital converter responsive to a measurement signal for digitizing sensed voltage and current values, computing means for constantly monitoring electrical energy consumption based on said digitized current and voltage values, data storage means for holding calculated and other required data, and display means for displaying selected data, wherein each current sensing means includes a shunt, the voltage across which is amplified and fed to an analog switch for processing by said at least one analog to digital converter; and wherein each shunt voltage is amplified using a differential amplifier which has a square wave switched offset signal applied to the non-inverting input of said differential amplifier, said square wave having an offset of 1/2 LSB (least significant bit) and wherein the amplified signal from each

... /2

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(10) 597331

-2-

said differential amplifier has limited filtering to allow a random signal to be applied to the measurement signal entering said at least one analog to digital converter.

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Form 10

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

(ORIGINAL)

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TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

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48-50 Bridge Road, Richmond, State of Victoria, Australia.

Complete Specification for the invention entitled: "ELECTRICITY METER".

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me:—

* Note: The description is to be typed in double spacing, pica type face, in an area not exceeding 250 mm in depth and 160 mm in width, on tough white paper of good quality and it is to be inserted inside this form.

The present invention relates to improvements in devices used for monitoring the use of electrical energy.

5 The use of general purpose watthour meters is well established with the state or local electricity authorities fitting such meters to the premises of each consumer. These meters are usually of the electro-mechanical "Ferraris disc" type and their operation and construction are well known. It is common, where an electric hot water service is provided, to have two such meters and a timer or ripple control unit to control operation of the hot water service or other equipment at the cheaper "off-peak rate". It is sometimes necessary to also
10 include a by-pass switch to allow heating of water at the "day" rate when the hot water has been exhausted. These meters, timers, ripple control units and switches take up a considerable amount of room and can be rather expensive.

Accordingly it is an object of the present invention to provide an electronic electricity management system which incorporates an electrical energy
15 analyser (hereafter called analyser), which has very few mechanical parts.

A further object of the invention is to provide an electronic analyser which integrates the features of dual meters, by-pass switch and timer or ripple control unit into one compact unit.

With these objects in view the present invention provides an electrical
20 energy analyser including at least one current sensing means, a voltage sensing means, at least one analog to digital converter responsive to a measurement signal for digitizing sensed voltage and current values, computing means for constantly monitoring electrical energy consumption based on said digitized current and voltage values, data storage means for holding calculated and other required data,
25 and display means for displaying selected data, wherein each current sensing means includes a shunt, the voltage across which is amplified and fed to an analog switch for processing by said at least one analog to digital converter; and



wherein each shunt voltage is amplified using a differential amplifier which has a square wave switched offset signal applied to the non-inverting input of said differential amplifier, said square wave having an offset of 1/2 LSB (least significant bit) and wherein the amplified signal from each said differential amplifier has limited filtering to allow a random signal to be applied to the measurement signal entering said at least one analog to digital converter.

Preferably said analyser includes two current sensing means for monitoring two separate electricity lines, one of said electricity lines being switched by said computing means. In one preferred embodiment said computing means may be coupled to a real time clock with said computing means switching said one line dependent on the time of day or else upon ripple control command. If required said analyser may include a plurality of registers within said storage means for storing a measure of the energy consumed within a plurality of time of day zones.

Preferably said analyser includes an electrical contactor including a moving arm contact, a stationary contact, a switchable coil for causing movement of said contacts into and out of contact and an arm or plate means mounted adjacent the arm of said moving arm contact, said arm or plate means being coupled to one of said contacts so that current flowing in said arm or plate means is in a direction opposite to that in said arm of said



moving arm contact to prevent said contacts from being forced apart whilst closed.

Preferably said arm or plate means is mounted parallel to said arm of said moving arm contact.

5 Other aspects and features of this invention will become apparent from the following description of one non-limitative preferred embodiment thereof. Reference will be made in the description to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

10 Fig. 1 is a block diagram of an analyser made in accordance with the invention;

Figs. 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 are sections of an electronic circuit schematic drawing of the analyser shown in Fig. 1;

15 Fig. 3 is a graph showing the effect of quantization error for a 7 bit analog to digital converter;

Fig. 4 is a graph showing quantization error for a 7 bit analog to digital converter using the techniques of the invention;

20 Fig. 5 is a front view of a contactor modified in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 6 is a side view of the contactor shown in Fig. 5; and

25 Fig. 7 is a graph of a power curve reconstructed by using the techniques of the invention.

Turning to Figs. 1 and 2 there is shown an electronic analyser which performs the functions of two



conventional meters, a time clock and a by-pass switch. The analyser can also perform "time-of-use" metering. The embodiment is for use with single phase only and has a switched line for storage heating. The circuit operation
5 will now be described in the following sections:-

1. Power Supply -

The power supply utilizes well known linear regulation techniques. Incoming mains A,N is filtered by resistor R75 and capacitor C41. Voltage spikes are
10 suppressed by varistor VR6. The mains power transformer steps down the mains supply voltage to one winding of 10V RMS and another of 20V RMS. The 10V winding is rectified,
15 filtered and regulated to 5V for the logic supply. The 20V winding is rectified, filtered and regulated (by Zener diodes VR8 and VR7) to +10V and -4.7V respectively. This is used to power the operational amplifiers to be described below.

The Reference for the A/D converter, integral with microcomputer unit U4, is taken from the digital supply rail
20 and suitably temperature compensated by resistors R71 and R72 and diode D34.

2. Current Input Amplifiers -

The currents flowing in the main and switched circuits flow through two shunts (SHUNT 1 and 2). The
25 voltages developed across the shunts are amplified by differential amplifiers (U5). There are three amplifiers - one (C) for the switched circuit (SL) and two for the main



5
-8-

circuit (ML); one (A) for high currents and one (B) for low currents. Two ranges are required in order to expand the microcomputer's Analog to Digital dynamic range. After amplification, the signals are capacitively coupled into
5 analog switches (U7), the inputs of which have been impressed with a DC bias. The analog switches (U7) are scanned at sample time by port PB1 via level shifter/amplifier U6, of microcomputer (U4). Each signal is passed to a separate A/D input of microcomputer (U4) where it is
10 digitized.

Resolution of the A/D is improved by the use of noise and offset jitter or shifting. The randomization of the signal is achieved by limiting the amount of filtering that the amplified signal is subjected to. Thus the current
15 signal is left with about 1/2 to 1 LSB of superimposed random noise. Offset shifting is implemented by the circuitry comprising operational amplifier D and switch U7. This circuit merely takes a square wave and uses it to switch the ^{non-inverting} ~~reference~~ level of the amplifiers (comprised of
20 A, B, C) from $V_{RH}/2$ to 1/2 LSB less than $V_{RH}/2$ using level shifter/amplifier U5D.

The accuracy of an A/D converter is limited by (amongst other things), quantization error. Fig. 3 shows the effect of quantization error for a 7 bit converter.
25 Thus it is possible to observe errors of 0.6% at about 11% of full scale amplitude. Because of this limitation it appeared that three analog ranges were necessary to cover



the dynamic range of the meter. As previously discussed it was found that quantization error could be reduced in two ways:-

5

(i) By adding a random signal to the actual signal and averaging the result, the average response of Fig. 3, (shown ———), could be obtained.

10

(ii) Experimental results showed that by adding 1/2 LSB offset to the input signal the whole graph of Figure 3 was shifted horizontally by the equivalent of 1/2 LSB. Fig. 4 shows the experimental results. This confirmed that a simple switching of offset between two levels of 1/2 LSB apart would result in an average response of lower absolute error.

15
20

The overall effect of (i) and (ii) above is to "smooth out the bumps" of Figs. 3 and 4. This enabled the use of 2 analog ranges. The "bumps" of Fig. 3 were not completely eliminated due to limitations in average and level switching. However an improvement in resolution of about 3 to 4 times was observed. Field results of $\pm 0.5\%$ Error at one tenth of the full scale amplitude imply an A/D resolution of 11 bits when in fact only 7 are used (7 for positive 1/2 cycle, 7 for negative 1/2 cycle implies an 8 bit converter over all).

25

3. Voltage Input Circuit -



Monitoring the mains voltage is done via a simple potential divider (R76, R77, R45). The reduced voltage is buffered by U6,D and then sampled by analog input AN3. All analog inputs are protected by clamp diodes to Vcc and ground.

4. Non-Volatile Memory -

Calibration data, Night Rate switch times, Holiday Dates, Energy Backup Registers and Ripple Control Codes are some of the data that can be stored in the NOVRAM (non-volatile memory device U1). The data, which is kept in RAM during normal operation, is backed up to E²PROM (in the same chip) upon detection of an impending power failure. Once stored in E²PROM, the data can be saved without power for periods in excess of 10 years. Communication between the microcomputer (U4) and the NOVRAM (U1) is via Ports A & C of the microcomputer.

5. Clock and Backup Circuit -

For time keeping during power outages a CMOS clock device (U3), is utilized. Communication with microcomputer (U4) is again via Ports A and C. A supercap (C40) is the power supply for the clock (U3) during power outages. The use of a supercap (C40) provides substantial advantages over the conventional backup sources of lithium or Ni-Cd cells. The life expectancy of a supercap is as long as most of the components it is associated with because it does not run flat like a lithium cell and can be charged and discharged as often as required without any ill-effects as opposed to



Ni-Cd cells. The basic difference between the method of back-up used in Fig. 2 and other methods of CMOS clock back-up, is that a current source rather than a voltage source is used to supply energy to the clock chip (U3). In this way the stored energy reserve is better utilized. This results in longer back-up times than would be achieved by a voltage source. Another key feature of the back-up circuit is the method by which the clock chip (U3) is "ground isolated" from the rest of the circuit. This is achieved by two transistors of transistor pack U2.

6. Keyed Input -

Two push buttons (BOOST and DISPLAY) on the front of the analysers case (not shown) magnetically activate reed switches (S1, S2). The activation is detected by Port lines PA1 and PA2 of microcomputer (U4). The reed switches and associated circuitry are shown in area E 12 of Fig. 2.

Detection of the position of the Mode switch (S3) is done in an identical manner. The mode switch selects Normal operation mode or Set-up mode. Set-up mode is used for allowing the setting of clock data by the Display and Boost switches. Also, Set-up mode will allow communications via the optical port without the need for a password.

7. Optical Communications Link -

Optical communication is facilitated by one Infrared Light Emitting Diode (Q2) and one Infrared Phototransistor (Q1). Q2 is directly controlled from microcomputer port PB4. The output of the phototransistor is



directly monitored by port PD6. Timing for the serial data is derived from the timer built into microcomputer (U4).

The serial port may be used to set and read the clock/calendar (U3) and to read/write the non-volatile memory (U1). Although it is perfectly feasible to operate the analyser without this facility, the use of a data terminal (not shown) is recommended if some of the analyser's more sophisticated capabilities are to be exploited.

10 8. Contactor and Associated Protection -

The contactor K1 of Fig. 2 is driven from port B0 of microcomputer U4 via transistor Q5. Maximum continuous current through the contact is 30amp. It is required that the contactor K1 withstand 1KA and 3KA prospective faults and 1KA "make" prospective fault without significant contactor damage or sticking. To achieve the required performance a special magnetic blowout device is included in series with the contacts.

A suitable contactor 10 is shown in Figs. 5 and 6. It is rated at 30 AMP RMS continuous. However it will not withstand 1000 and 3000 Amp fault currents for as long as it takes a 16 Amp rewirable fuse or a 20 Amp HRC (3KA) fuse to blow.

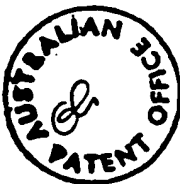
Contactor 10 is mounted on printed circuit board 12 by terminals 14,16,17,18 and 20. Terminals 16 and 17 control the current to coil 24, terminal 18 is connected to moving arm contact 26 and terminal 20 is connected to lower



stationary contact 28. It was found in practice, that if the contacts 26,28 were physically jammed together then they would survive the fault current. This meant that the contacts 26,28 were being forced apart during fault tests (when there was nothing jamming the contacts). The forcing apart of the contacts was due to electromagnetic forces which were generated by the large current flow. Once the contacts are forced apart, arcing occurs and the contacts are destroyed.

10 In order to overcome the magnetic "blow-out" forces, a plate 32 is mounted on board 12 parallel to moving arm 34. Plate 32 has a slot (not shown) in order that it may be positioned over contactor 10. A copper track 36 on board 12 links stationary contact 28 to plate 32 by terminal 20. Plate 32 has an input terminal 38 at one end and an output terminal 40 at the other end. When contacts 26,28 are closed current flowing through the moving arm 34 flows in an opposite direction to that of plate 32, as indicated by the arrows shown in Fig. 5. Basic physics dictates that a force will be set up between the plate and the moving arm such that it will tend to force the moving arm and the plate apart. Such a force is proportional to the square of the current. The contactor survives the fault tests with the plate in place because the contacts 26,28 are forced further together under the magnetic forces generated. Accordingly no arcing occurs and the contacts are not destroyed.

9. Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) and Visible Light



11
- 11 -

Emitting Diodes (LED's)

Port Lines PB3, PA7, PA6 and PB7 of microcomputer (U4) are used to control the display driver (U10) and hence the display (LCD). The microcomputer (U4) uses a serial bus communication to communicate with display (LCD). Pinouts of the custom made duplex display (DS1) were chosen to suit the pinouts of the driver (U10). In general terms, the driver (U10) is a single chip, silicon gate CMOS circuit designed to drive an LCD with up to 64 segments in a duplex manner.

When the display is not in use, it is turned off by port PB7 via a transistor of U2.

DS2 and DS3 are the KWhr pulse LED and the boost LED respectively. DS2 is controlled directly from microcomputer (U4) and the Boost LED is turned on via transistor (Q5) which turns on the contactor (K1). Diode DS4 indicates the presence of ripple tones on the mains.

10. Microcomputer with A/D -

The microcomputer (U4) incorporates a CPU, on-chip crystal clock, user ROM, RAM, memory mapped I/O, A/D converter and a timer. To avoid a bad reset on power up, the network (D10, VR2 and R52) holds the reset line down until the supply voltage level is sufficient to initiate an orderly reset. Upon application of sufficient mains voltage, U4 is held in reset mode for about 100 mSec by capacitor C23; when the Reset state is released, by the charging of capacitor C23, U4 initializes its RAM and does a recall from NOVRAM (U1). An Internal Crystal locked (by



crystal X1, capacitor C10) timer is enabled and U4 enters normal operation.

The microcomputer tasks are divided into two types; foreground and background. Foreground tasks are interrupt driven via the internal timer. The main foreground task is the energy measuring/sampling algorithm. Background tasks (e.g. Display refresh) are done in the microcomputer's "spare time" ie. whenever it is not in an interrupt state. Energy measurement begins with a timer interrupt which causes entry into the sampling algorithm. The voltage and current are sampled within about 5μ sec of each other by analog inputs AN0, AN1 and AN3. Such close sampling is made possible by the sample and hold capacitors C6, C7 and C8. Voltage and Current Samples are digitized by the microcomputer's converter then multiplied and scaled to form power. Accumulation of many such instantaneous power samples over time constitutes an indication of accumulated energy flow. Comparison of the indicated energy flow with a constant known to be equivalent to one watt-hour of energy defines energy measurement. The constant referred to above is the calibration constant which is adjusted when the meter is calibrated. A more detailed description of the energy measurement algorithm will be given later in this specification.

Registers are provided in RAM (and NOVRAM U1) for accumulating the units of watt-hours detected by the above method. If Time of Use (T.O.U.) is enabled (i.e. clock is



in use) then the relevant register (i.e. High, Mid or Low rate register) is incremented by one. Energy registers can be displayed upon command on display (LCD).

As an aid to calibration and for the consumer's information the LED DS2 is made to flash for every watt-hour of energy that passes through the main circuit.

Every second, the microcomputer checks the clock (U3). If it is time for a particular action to occur (e.g. turning on the contactor for the hot water supply) then that action is executed.

Power failure is detected by the microcomputer via the mains voltage analog input channel (AN3). Because of the large reservoir capacitor C36, the microcomputer has at least 25 mSec to save vital information and effect an orderly power down. All of the information that needs to be saved is kept in the RAM part of the NOVRAM (U1). This is saved by simply taking PC6 low. However power must be maintained for at least 10 mSec after taking PC6 low. As the logic supply falls, the super-capacitor storage (C40) holds the clock supply to above 2.2V thus maintaining clock (U3) operation.

The method of energy measurement and the measurement algorithm will now be discussed.

The analog input signals (AN0, AN1, AN2, AN3) are sampled at a constant frequency unrelated to the mains frequency. A sample rate was chosen such that the instantaneous power values derived represented a power



curve, the same shape as the actual power curve, with area proportional to the actual curve. It is important that a sufficiently large number of power samples represent one cycle of the "reconstructed" curve, so that harmonic content

5 is retained. Fig. 7 shows the power curve obtained for a sampling interval of 9 milliseconds. In this case, the period of the power curve is 180 mSec; (90 mSec, if voltage and current waveforms are symmetrical). This is a very short time span compared with the likely changes of the

10 input waveforms. Such changes could be due to the switching of appliances. The energy contained in the power curve is obtained by summing the power samples and comparing the sum with a constant each time a summation is performed. If the power sum exceeds the constant then the energy register (Watt-hour register) is incremented and the constant is subtracted from the sum. This approach has several

advantages:-

1. Less RAM storage is required.
2. Less arithmetic is needed as the energy registers may be in BCD arithmetic and simple increment/decrement operations are the only manipulations required.
3. The "constant" incorporates calibration adjustments, thus becoming one of the "calibration constants".

25 An outline of the procedure used in the analyser is given below. The routine is executed once every 9 mSec



when invoked by a timer interrupt.

5

1. Select AMPS input and take ADC sample.
2. Select VOLTS input and take ADC sample.
3. Convert AMPS and VOLTS to 'magnitude + sign' form.
4. Multiply VOLTS X AMPS giving POWER sample.
5. If sign of POWER = sign of POWERSUM, add POWER to POWERSUM; else subtract POWER from POWERSUM.
6. If POWERSUM >= KCAL, subtract KCAL from POWERSUM, increment ENERGY register (watt-hours).
7. Exit.

10

15

The "calibration constant", KCAL, is chosen such that the sum of power samples corresponding to one watt-hour of energy is equal to KCAL.

20

In practice, the basic algorithm is extended to handle more than one current range (two in the preferred embodiment previously discussed), and a second (switched) circuit (SL). Processing of the two circuits is interleaved so that in each 9 mSec interval, the routine is called twice. Multiple input ranges on the main circuit are handled by providing separate "POWERSUM" and "KCAL" registers for each current range.

25

The energy in the power curve is given by:-

$$E = \frac{t_s}{3600} * \frac{V_p, I_p}{P_{max}} * P_i$$



K6
- 17 -

Where t_s = sampling interval
 P_i = 'normalized' power samples
 P_{max} = value to which P_i are normalized
 V_p, I_p = peak volts and amps readings at
5 (P = Pmax)

Example

Assume current range is approx. 0 to 100A rms

Choose I_p = 150 A (i.e. ADC gives \$FF at 150A peak input).

Choose V_p = 375 V (i.e. ADC gives \$FF at 375V peak input),

10 and $t_s = 9 * 10^{-3}$ sec.

Assume power samples are rounded to 8 bits; therefore ...

$$P_{max} = \$FE = 254$$

The calibration constant is the value of P_i
which yields one watt-hour of energy.

$$15 \quad P = \frac{3600}{9 * 10^{-3}} * \frac{254}{375 * 150}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P &= \text{KCAL} = 1806 \\ &= \$070E \end{aligned}$$

Other ranges will yield proportional KCAL's.

20 As discussed in Section 4 the analyser supports

Ripple Control where timing signals are impressed on the
mains to control activation of storage heating devices,
normally overnight. In areas where Ripple Control is
operating, the analyser provides advantages over traditional
25 equipment. The receiver is located inside the analyser and
shares the analyser's power supply and microprocessor.
Thus, significant cost savings and space savings are



realized.

A ten bit code system is fully supported, with the exception of 'combination codes' (20 bit command sequences). Analysers are programmable, in the field, to respond to two
5 (2) separate "ON" commands (and their "OFF" complements), for the purpose of controlling the switched circuit load. This allows for (but is not restricted to) the implementation of "master commands"; i.e. the second channel may or may not be a "master command". Further, the "master
10 command" standard may be disregarded, if desired, in favour of a more flexible grouping arrangement.

In addition to, or instead of, controlling the switched circuit contactor (K1), an option exists to allow the Time-of-Use rate (i.e. 'HIGH', 'MID' or 'LOW') to be
15 selected by Ripple Control commands. A command code is assigned to each of the three tariffs. Using this technique, it would be feasible to employ different rates and switching times for different consumer areas, should
this be desired.

20 The two switched circuit command codes are settable either in the field or using the data terminal attached to the opto port. The Time-of-Use tariff commands are settable only via the opto port.

If Ripple is configured for the switched circuit
25 (SL), the two command codes ("ON" codes) are displayed on the LCD. These codes are entered and displayed as 3-digit hexadecimal numbers corresponding to the 10-bit binary



command sequence. This has a minor disadvantage in that the channel number is not displayed directly. (The relationship between the standard channel numbers and the corresponding 10-bit codes is rather obscure.) However, the hex

5 representation is not constrained to any standard, thus guarding against obsolescence, should the channel allocations be changed.

To complete the description the parts list for the integrated circuits shown in Figs. 1 and 2 are as follows:-

10 U1 : X2212D
U2 : LM3045J
U3 : MM 58274
U4 : MC 68705R5S
U5 : MC 35084AL
15 U6 : LM324J
U7 : MC 14066BCL
U10 : PCF2111
U13 : LM 309KC

It is believed that the invention and many of its
20 attendant advantages will be understood from the foregoing description and it will be apparent that various changes may
be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the parts and that changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the electrical energy analyser described
25 without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention or sacrificing all of its material advantages, the form hereinbefore described being merely a preferred embodiment thereof.



The claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. An electrical energy analyser including at least one current sensing means, a voltage sensing means, at least one analog to digital converter responsive to a measurement signal for digitizing sensed voltage and current values, computing means for constantly monitoring electrical energy consumption based on said digitized current and voltage values, data storage means for holding calculated and other required data, and display means for displaying selected data, wherein each current sensing means includes a shunt, the voltage across which is amplified and fed to an analog switch for processing by said at least one analog to digital converter; and wherein each shunt voltage is amplified using a differential amplifier which has a square wave switched offset signal applied to the non-inverting input of said differential amplifier, said square wave having an offset of 1/2 LSB (least significant bit) and wherein the amplified signal from each said differential amplifier has limited filtering to allow a random signal to be applied to the measurement signal entering said at least one analog to digital converter.

2. The electrical energy analyser as claimed in claim 1 wherein the measurement signal is left with 1/2 to 1 LSB of superimposed random noise applied thereto.

3. The electrical energy analyser as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said analyser includes two current sensing means for monitoring two separate electricity lines, one of said electricity lines being switched by said computing means.

4. The electrical energy analyser as claimed in claim 3, wherein said computing means is coupled to a real time clock with said computing means switching said one line dependent on the time of day or else upon ripple control command.



5. The electrical energy analyser as claimed in claim 4, wherein said data storage means stores a measure of the energy consumed within a plurality of time of day zones.

6. The electrical energy analyser of any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein said switching is by an electrical contactor, said electrical contactor including a moving arm contact, a stationary contact, an electrically energizable coil for causing movement of said contacts into and out of contact and an arm or plate means mounted adjacent the arm of said moving arm contact, said arm or plate means being coupled to one of said contacts so that current flowing in said arm or plate means is in a direction opposite to that in said arm of said moving arm contact to prevent said contacts from being forced apart whilst closed.

7. The electrical energy analyser as claimed in claim 6, wherein said arm or plate means is mounted parallel to said arm of said moving arm contact.

8. An electrical energy analyser substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

D A T E D this 19th day of February, 1990.

OLIVER J. NILSEN (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED

By its Patent Attorneys:

CALLINAN LAWRIE



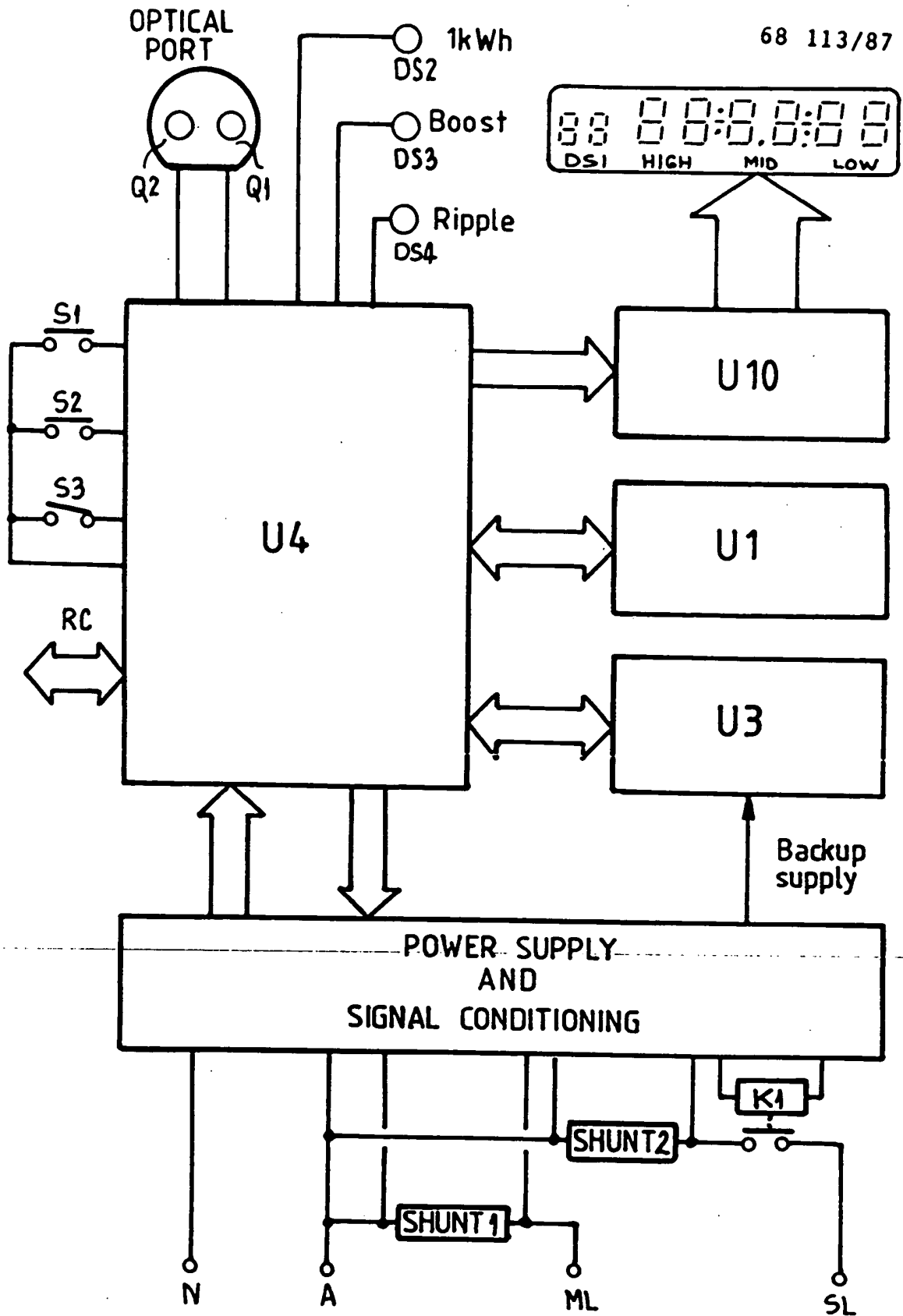
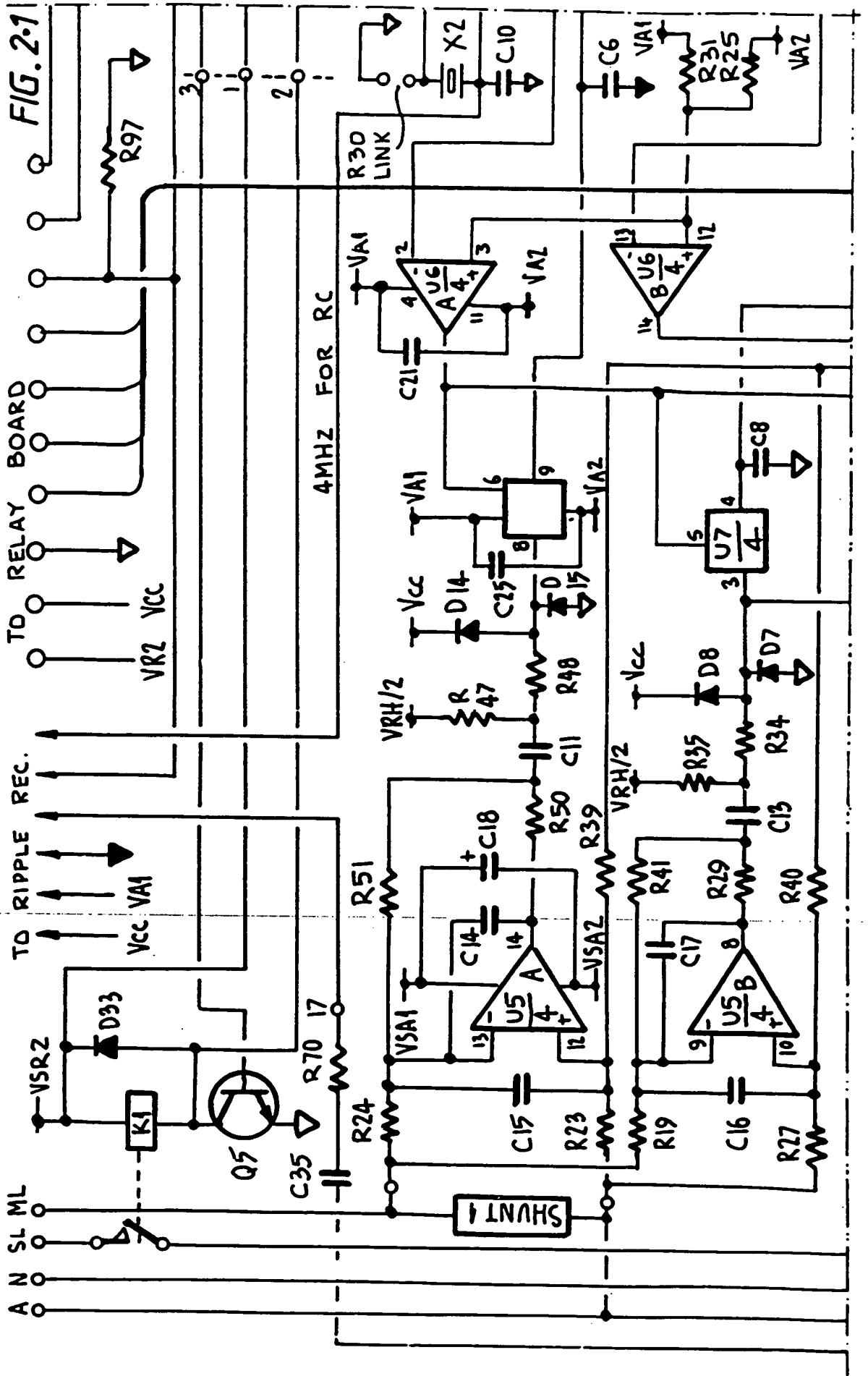
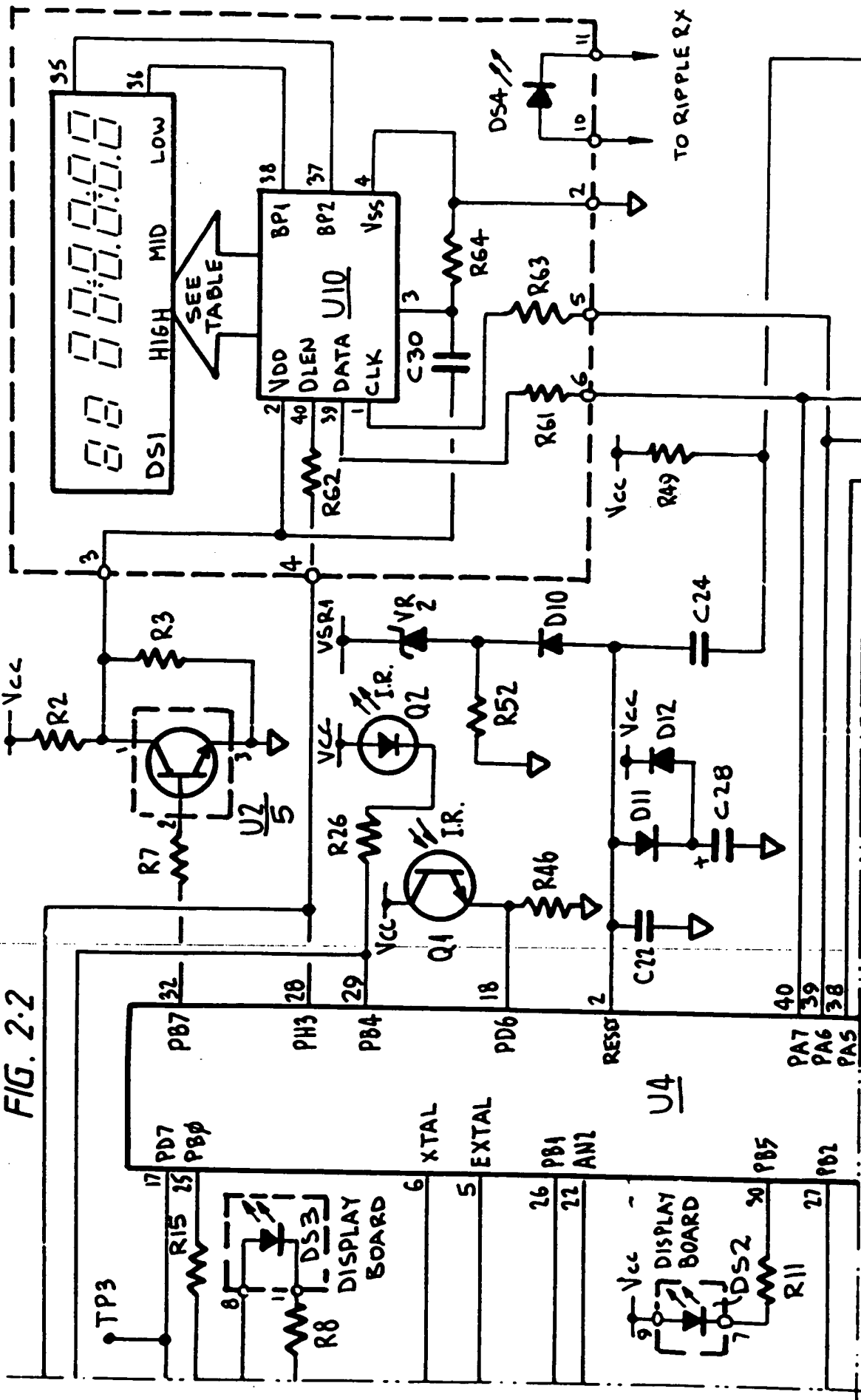
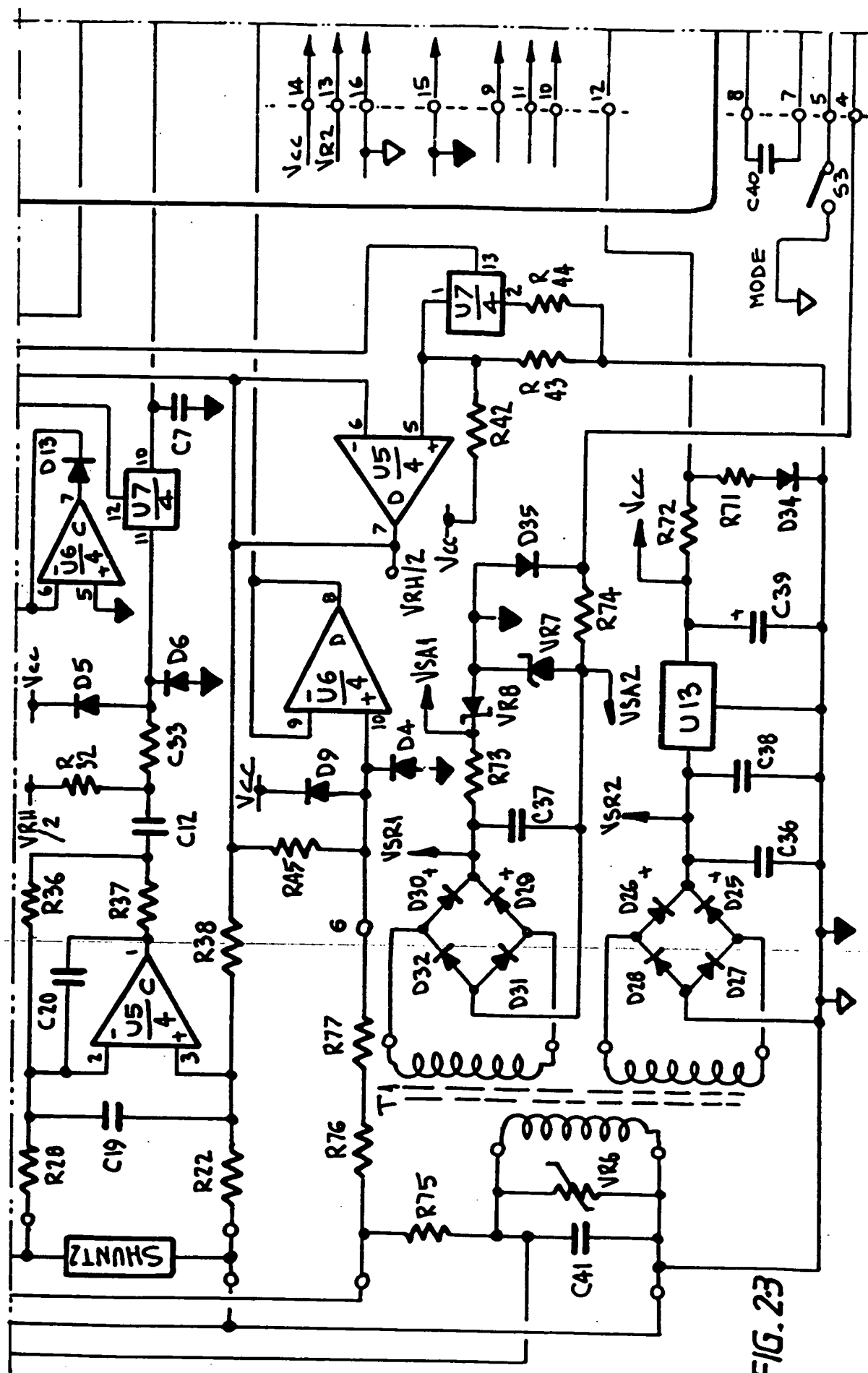


FIG. 1.



[illegible]



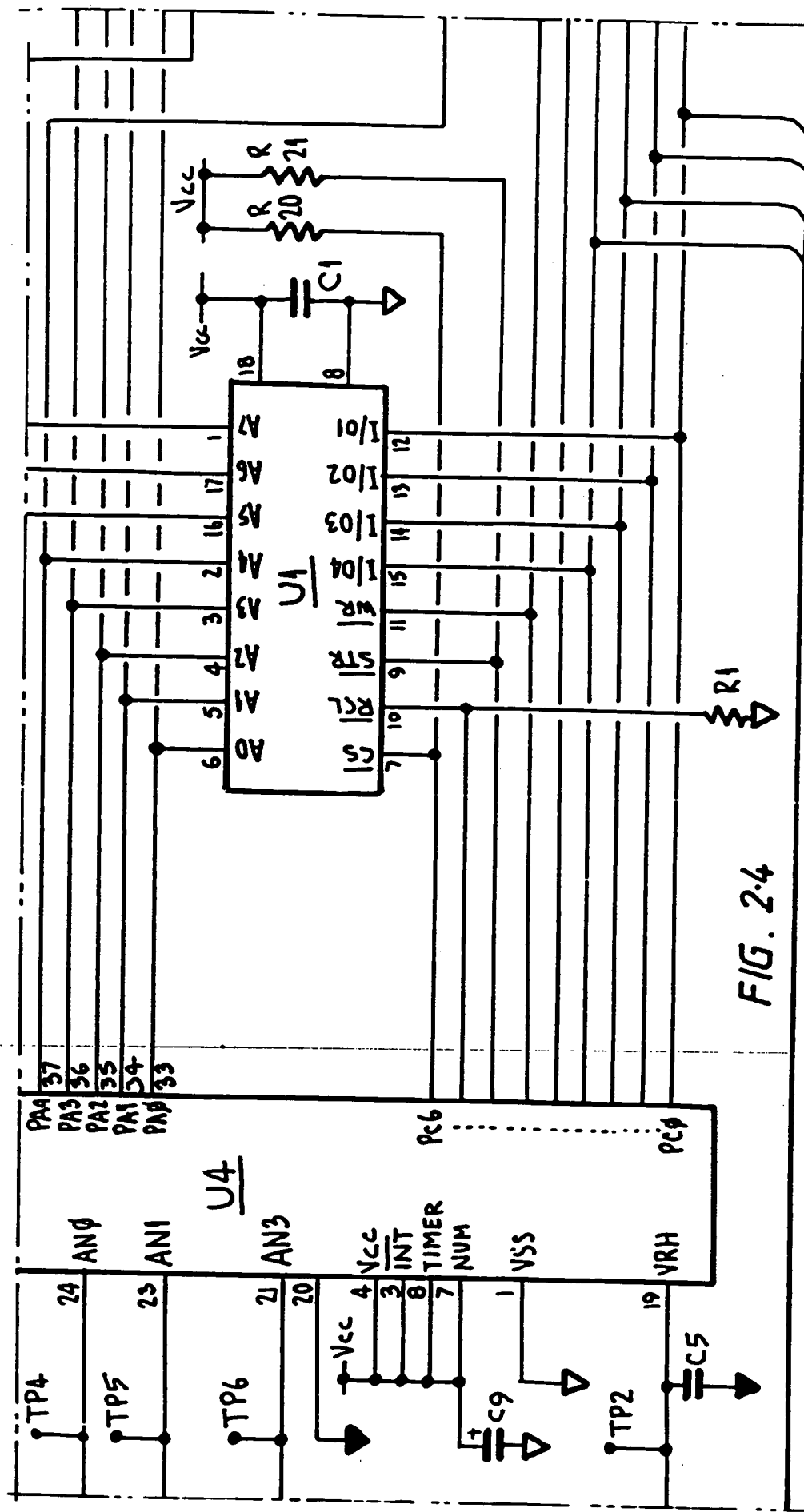
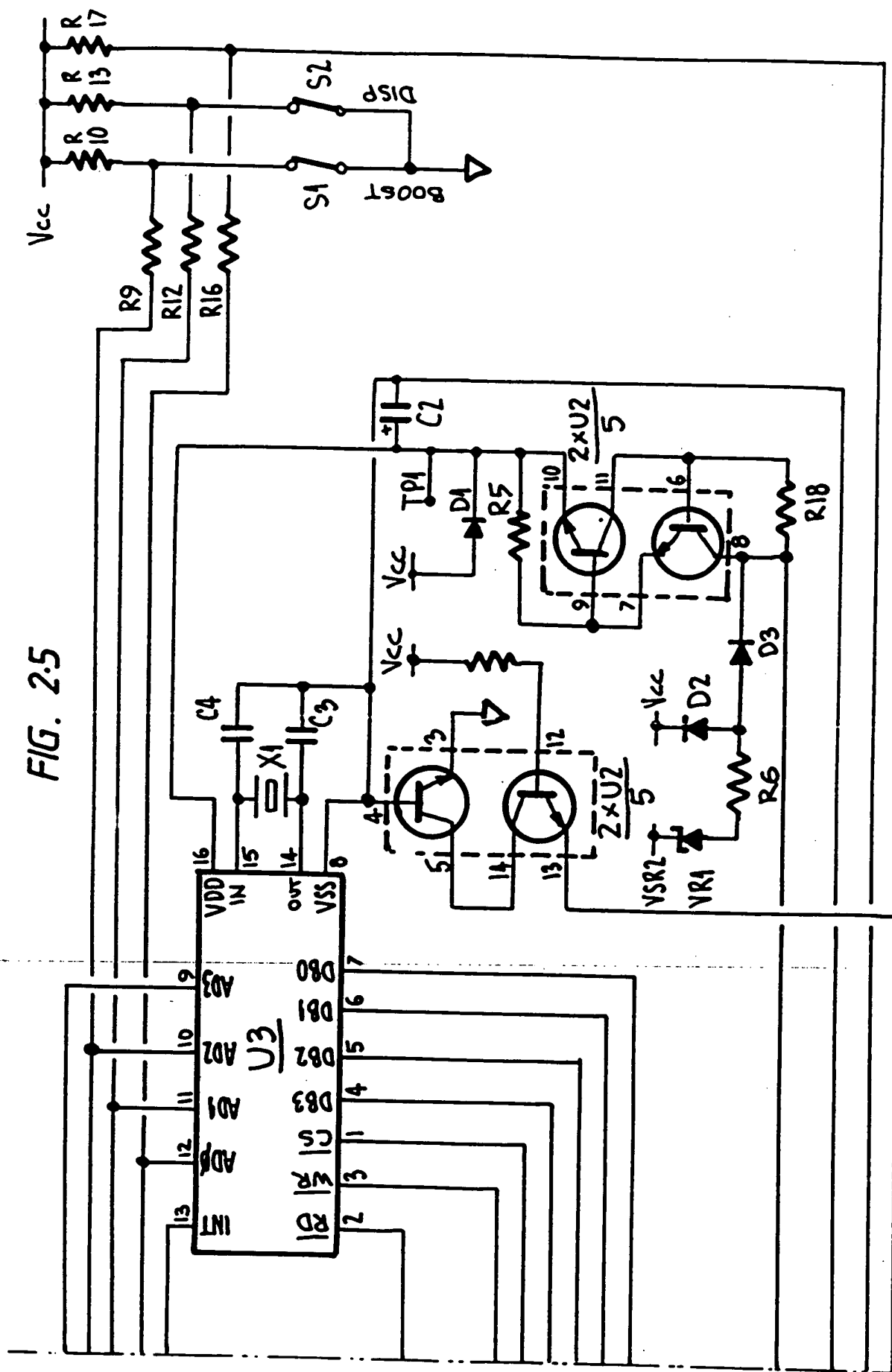


FIG. 2.4

FIG. 2.5



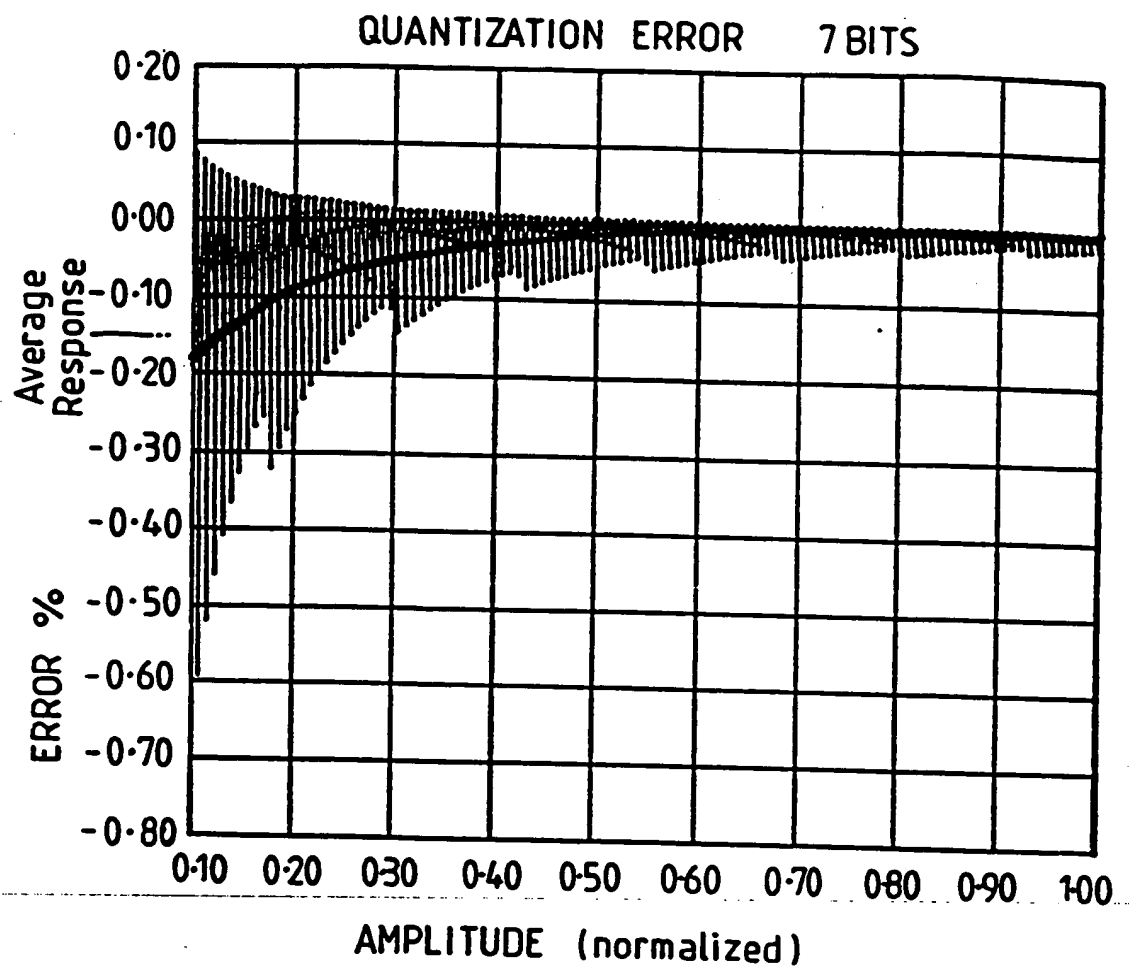


FIG. 3.

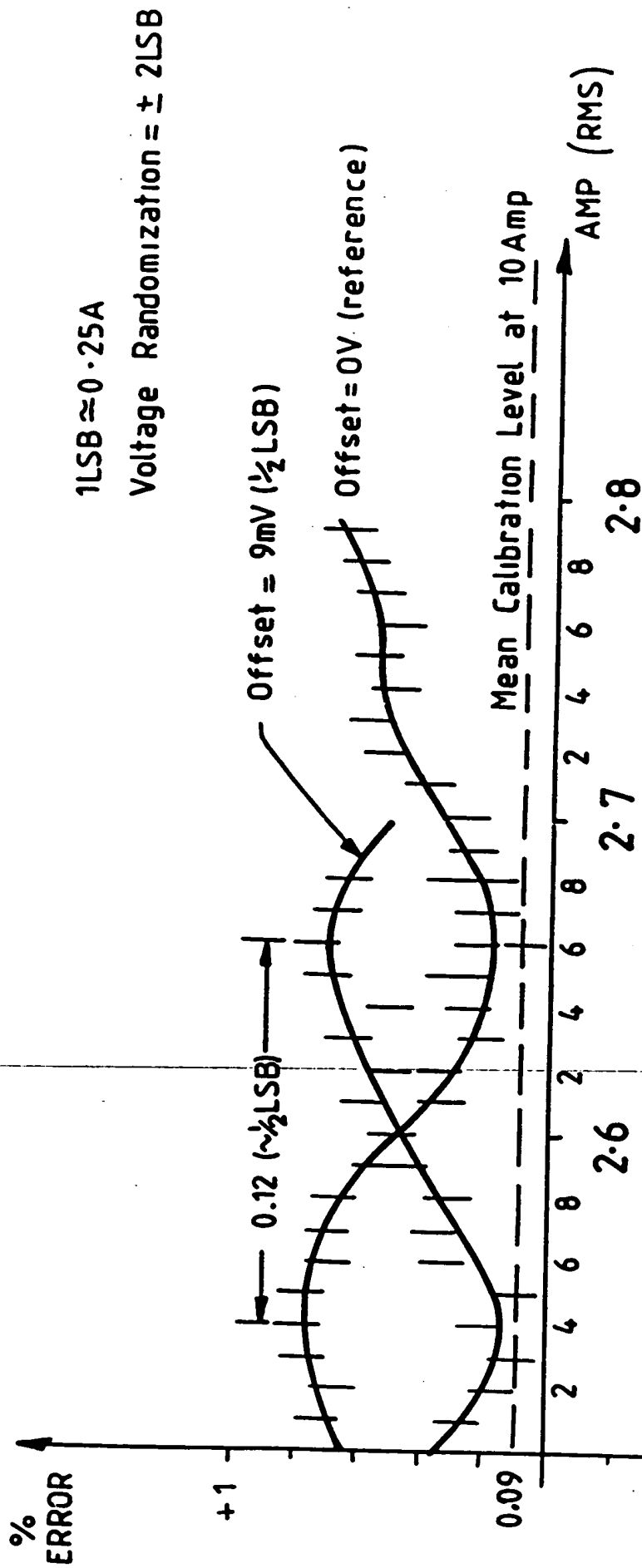
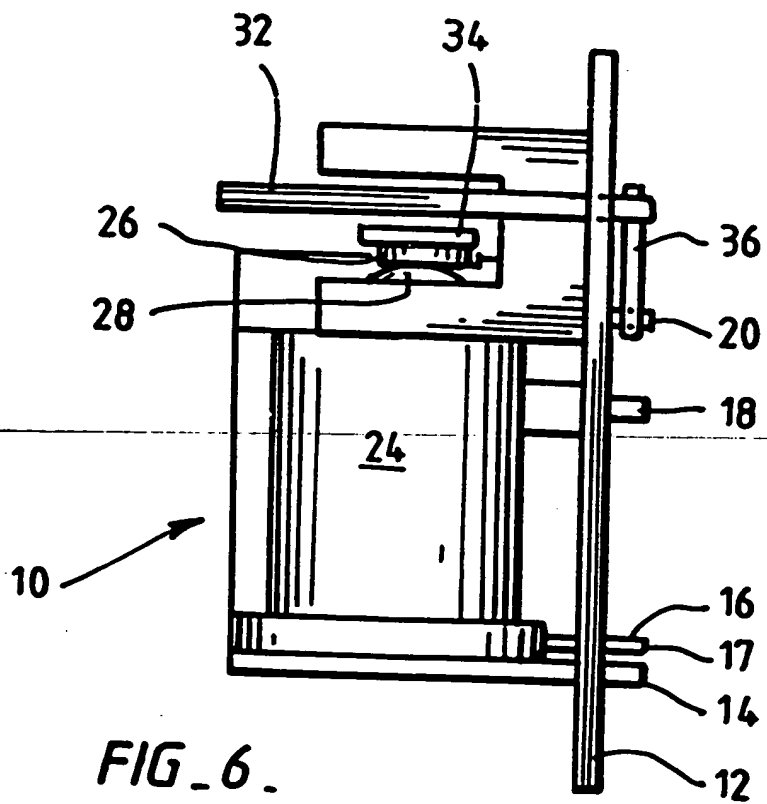
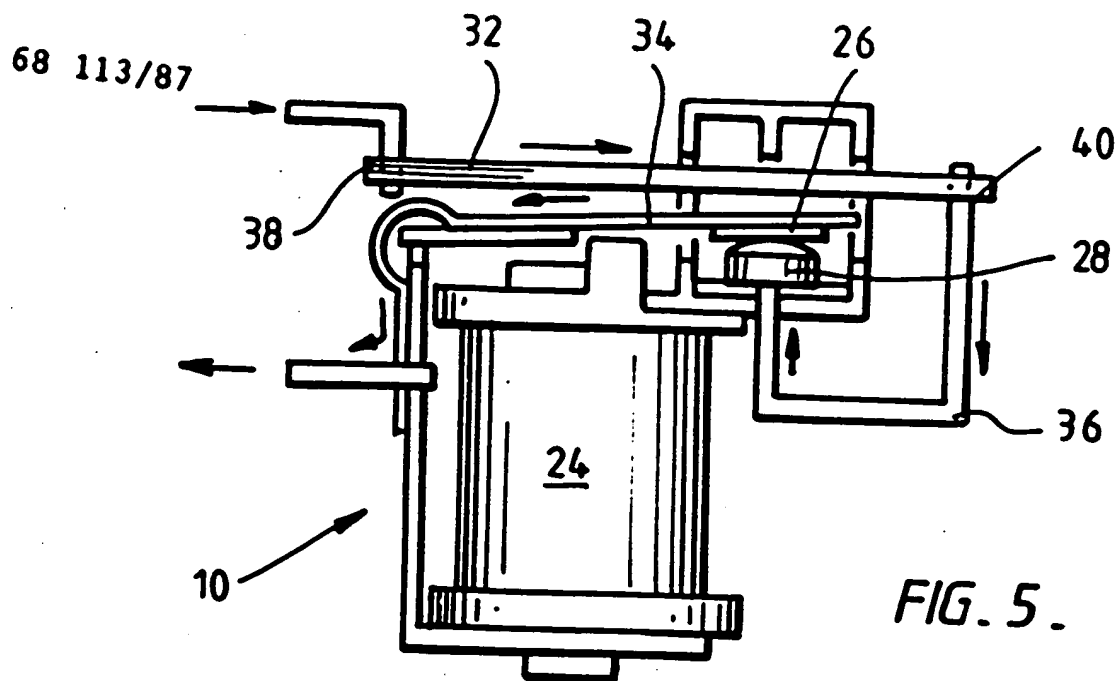


FIG-4 -



$$p(\omega t) = VI \sin^2(\omega t)$$

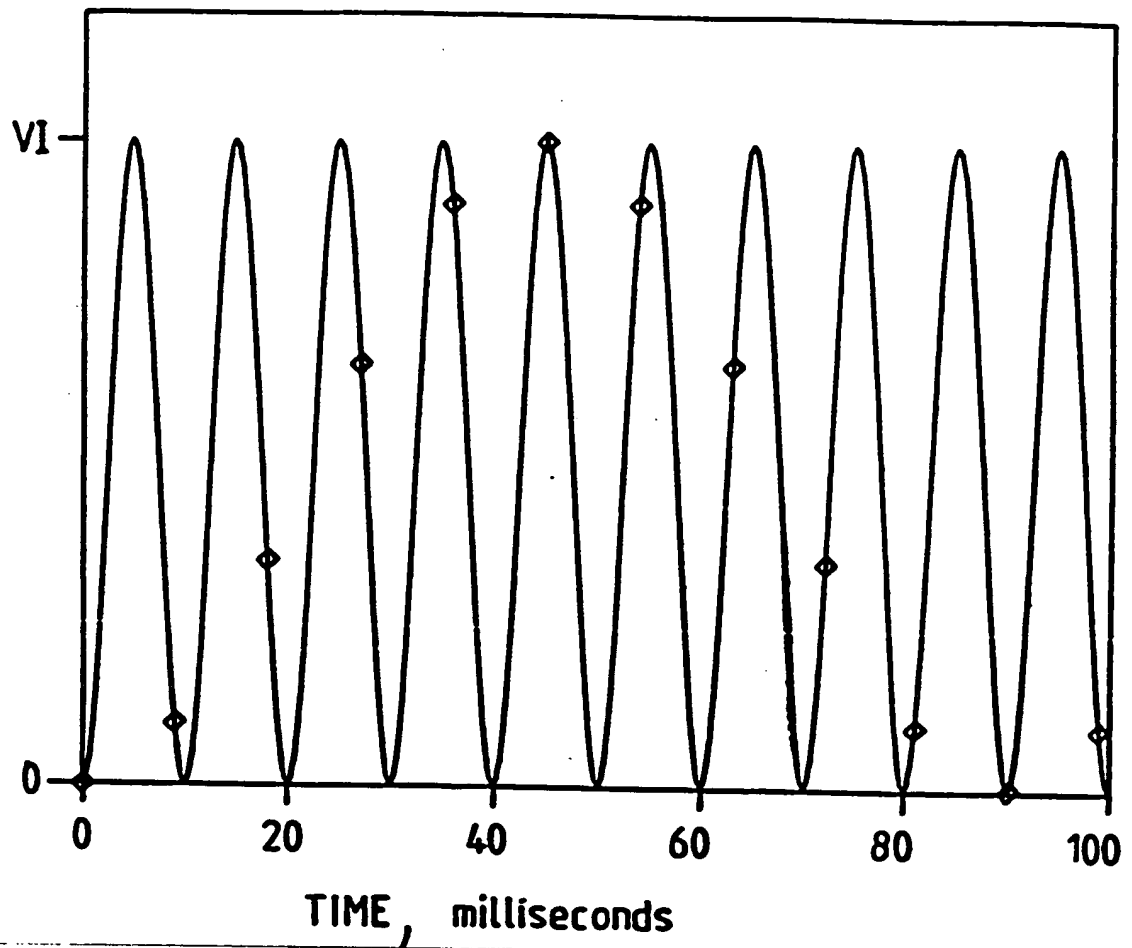


FIG. 7.